

**REMARKS**

The office action of July 2, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 5-10 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c).

Claims 1-, 4-6 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the patent to Fulcher et al.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to claims 5-10, applicant points out that these claims were amended in the last filed amendment to correct the multiple dependency problems.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claims 5-10 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1 and 6.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that the patent to Fulcher et al. discloses an automated fee collection and parking fee dispensing machine for a plurality of parking places. Fulcher et al. do not disclose each and every feature recited in independent claims 1 and 6 as presently written.

#### Display

Claim 1 recites a display "adapted for indicating a paid parking time as well as for indicating an amount of money which has not been used". The Examiner is correct that Fulcher et al. disclose that a time is indicated on a ticket. This time is not however the paid for parking time, but instead is the time the ticket is issued (see column 15, lines 45-47). Additionally, the money to be paid back cannot be indicated on the ticket because at the time the ticket is given it cannot yet be determined when the user of the parking space will return to his vehicle. The amount of money to be paid back is therefore not determinable at the time the ticket is given out.

The Examiner further states that the display of Fulcher et al. indicates both of the types of information named in the claims. Applicant submits that this is not correct. Elements 200 and 204 in Fulcher et al. are a "touch screen assembly" (for example see column 10, line 2). For reference applicant has attached the definition of "touch screen" from www.merriam-webster.com. From this definition it is clear that a touch screen is "a display screen on which the user selects options by touching the screen". The touch screen assembly of Fulcher et al. is an input device via which a user can input information into the parking meter (for example the selection of the desired parking time). Nowhere in Fulcher et al. is there any teaching that the touch screen assembly can display the paid parking time or the money to be returned, nor is the touch screen assembly suited for such a purpose.

#### Read-Write Unit

According to claim1, the input device and the return device are a "read-write unit for a chip card". According to the Examiner, this should be taught at column 23, lines 15-18 of Fulcher et al. However, this passage of Fulcher et al. only deals with "transaction reports". This is no teaching that the system of

Fulcher et al. has a read-write device. Moreover, a "transaction report" can, for example, be of an input operation (for example the input of a desired time duration of parking). Furthermore, the parking meter of Fulcher et al., according to column 8, line 26, includes a "smartcard and credit card reader 32". This is a pure "read unit" for credit cards. A read-write unit is not disclosed by Fulcher et al. and is also not inherent from the teachings of Fulcher et al.

Code

According to claim 1, the chip card is assigned a code from the central control device. By means of this code the chip card is recognized by the central control device when the chip card is inserted into the read-write unit anew. Contrary to the position taken by the Examiner, this is not disclosed by Fulcher et al. The Examiner refers to column 17, lines 22-35. This passage teaches that the chip card can be a smart card. The Examiner then states that a smart card inherently has a code, for example to identify the user. Claim 1 does not, however, recite that the chip card contains a code, but instead that the central control device assigns a code to the chip card so that when the chip card is read again it is recognized by the central control device. The

provision of a code from the central control device to each chip card makes it possible to assign a credit account to each chip card in which the relevant information, namely the selected parking time/duration, money credits, etc, are stored. This means that at the end of the actual parking time the user only needs to insert his personal chip card, for example a credit card, into the parking meter, which matches the credit card to its associated credit account. This does away with the need for a printer or a bar code reader, and the user does not need to bring along extra parking tickets. Instead, it is sufficient that the user has his/her personal chip card for identification. In Fulcher et al. a ticket is always required.

Relative to claim 6, applicant provides the following comments:

Read-Write Unit

See discussion above in connection with claim 1.

Code

See discussion above in connection with claim 1, as well as

the following. On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner states that it is inherent in Fulcher et al. that the code connects the card to a "credit account". This is not what is claimed in claim 6. Instead, the central control device knows a code and this code subsequently a "credit account". In other words, the central control device sets up a "credit account: for each chip card presented. The Examiner is referring to credit accounts of a financial institution, such as a bank, which are assigned to specific credit cards. This is not claimed in claim 6. Instead, the central control device sets up individual credit accounts for each credit card presented so that when a credit card is presented again at the end of the parking time it can be quickly determined if the credit for the actual parking time has been used up or if a credit needs to be issued. Such an operation is not disclosed or possible in Fulcher et al.

Additionally, according to claim 6, after expiration of the parking time the chip card is again inserted into the read-write unit and the central control device connects the chip card and the associated credit account via the code. This is also not disclosed by Fulcher et al. Column 18, lines 49-56 of Fulcher et al. states that a refund is given when the original ticket is presented to the scanner, not in response to a chip card. The scanner is a pure

read unit. Furthermore, the control device of Fulcher et al. does not set up credit accounts for the chip cards of the users. A determination of the difference between the actual parking time and the paid for parking time and the refund cannot be determined by Fulcher et al. from the chip card and the credit account. For this reason Fulcher et al require the reading of a ticket. Thus, Fulcher et al. cannot carry out the method recited in claim 6 now on file.

Display of Amount of Money to be Paid Back

Claim 6 requires that the amount of money to be paid back is displayed by a visual indicating device to the user. This is not disclosed by Fulcher et al.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 4-6 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

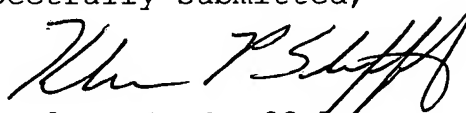
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

**RW-151**

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 29, 2008.

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## touch screen

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touch screen

Main Entry: **touch screen**

Function: *noun*

Date: 1974

: a display screen on which the user selects options (as from a menu) by touching the screen

Physician-reviewed articles on **touch screen** on [Healthline](#).

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